THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir. The application for modification of the order dated 29.4.2002 in Civil Appeal No. 816 and 817 of 2001 filed by CIL came up for hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 13th January, 2003 alongwith other applications filed by CIL and the respondent M/s. Domco Smokeless Fuel Pvt. Ltd. The text of the order as passed by the Hon'ble Court are *inter-alia* as follows:-

"Let these applications be considered at the time of hearing on the main matter".

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court is seized *inter-alia* with the said application for modification of the order dated 29.4.2002 and upon due consideration directed the said application be placed and heard along with the main matter.

Coal mining outside State boundaries

2390. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has decided to allow State public sector undertakings to take up coal mining outside their State boundaries and sell it in the open market anywhere; and

(b) if so, whether the States having no substantial coal reserves can actually set up their own coal producing entities and start operation in coal rich States such as Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the revised Coal Mining Policy issued on 12th December, 2001 any State Government company or undertaking authorised by its Memorandum & Articles of Association to do coal mining can undertake coal mining as per the provisions of law governing coal mining in the country.